Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 32, as follows:

-- Preferably, acidic lipopeptide antibiotics produced by culturing microorganisms are purified from fermentation broth or culture medium using extractive methods (Borders *et al.*, United States Patent Application Serial No.[[_____]] 09/948,374). The acidic lipopeptide antibiotic may be isolated as either the free acid or the salt. --

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 1, as follows:

-- Preferably, the cleavage of lipopeptide antibiotics to core antibiotics or core cyclic peptides commences by culturing microorganisms that produces a deacylase. The lipopeptide antibiotic is then contacted with the culture medium containing the deacylase. Microorganisms such as those of the *Actinoplanacae* that produce deacylases are well known to those of skill in the art. In a preferred embodiment, the microorganism *Actinoplanes utahensis* (NRRL 12052) provides a deacylase that deacylates many lipopeptide antibiotics to yield core antibiotics or core cyclic peptides (see *e.g.*, Lattrell *et al.*, United States Patent No. 5,039,789; Fukuda *et al.*, United States Patent No. 5,039,789; Abbott *et al.*, United States Patent No. 4,320,054; Abbott *et al.*, United States Patent No. 4,537,717; Debono *et al.*, United States Patent No. 4,293,483; Borders *et al.*, United States Patent ~~Application Serial No. 09/760,328~~ No. 6,511,962). --